

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Development Services/Planning Division

AGENDA DATE: Public Hearing 6-20-06

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Kimberly Forsyth, Zoning Administrator – 541-4631

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: City-wide

SUBJECT:

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERSONAL WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITIES, TO INCLUDE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW BUILDING PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERSONAL WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITIES TO INCLUDE CELL TOWER ANTENNA.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

See attached information.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

A Legislative Review Committee was held on June 15, 2006 to gather information related to this issue. The LRC directed staff to place an item on the City Council Agenda to allow further discussion.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

The Building and Zoning Advisory Committee (BZAC), in the course of their review and rewrite of Title 20 recommended several changes to the current City regulations applicable to Personal Wireless Service Facilities. The Development Coordinating Committee recommended approval of this proposed amendment to the Zoning Code. Prior to action by the City Plan Commission, the proposed draft was distributed to several wireless industry representatives who have requested further revisions.

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

SECTION HEAD: Alan Shubert

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: Patricia D. Adauto, Deputy City Manager **DATE:** _____

GENERAL INFORMATION:

SUBJECT: An amendment to Title 20, proposed Section 20.10.455 (Personal Wireless Service Facilities). The BZAC worked with staff to develop the proposed revisions to supplemental standards for PWSFs. The major changes are as follows:

- Decrease the permitted height for ground-mounted facilities in all zoning districts.
- Increase the setback requirements, especially where the proposed use is abutting a residential zoning district
- Require a minimum distance of a quarter-mile between structures
- Require that the design of new structures incorporate materials, colors, textures, screening or camouflaging techniques to blend into the natural setting and surrounding structures
- Authorize City Council, through a special permit application, to approve modifications to the above regulations where the applicant is requesting to collocate additional antennas on an existing structure in a commercial or manufacturing zoning district

Several wireless industry representatives, including T-Mobile, Crown Castle, Cricket, and others have met with staff to request further amendments and have presented revisions for consideration.